



Illinois Department of Transportation



American Traffic  
Safety Services Foundation



Illinois State Board of Education



**Grades K-6**  
**Illinois Work Zone Safety Calendar Contest**  
**“Life Behind the Cones and Barrels”**  
*How Roadway Workers Keep America Moving*

*Sponsored by*  
*Illinois Department of Transportation*  
*Illinois State Board of Education*  
*American Traffic Safety Services Foundation*  
*Illinois Chapter – ATSSA*

Students in grades kindergarten through six are invited to submit their impressions of the daily life of Illinois' roadway workers for a national poster contest. With roadway work zones expected to increase approximately 60% in the coming years due to safety improvements and overall renovation of the U.S. system of roads and bridges, motorists and their passengers are more likely than ever to encounter some of the nation's most overlooked heroes: the men and women who build and rebuild roads to keep America moving.

Like any worker, roadway workers get up in the morning, plan their day, say goodbye to family and loved ones, and head out to the workplace. Try to imagine, however, that in this case, the workplace may be smack in the middle of a super-highway. From the worker's perspective, every signal, sign, cone, barrel or other temporary device is a lifesaving innovation. Every driver and passenger is a vital partner in the lifesaving equation.

Each year, more than 1000 people lose their lives in work zone accidents—most of them drivers. Students are encouraged to take time to recognize the reasons work is undertaken, the type of jobs performed by roadway workers, and the families, loved ones, community responsibilities and other roles performed by these men and women, who have some of the most dangerous jobs in America.

Poster entries should reflect the view from the road—what a roadway worker sees or thinks about as he or she performs daily duties. Posters may also reflect key actions drivers and passengers can take to protect lives in work zones:

- Slow down to posted speeds.
- Merge as soon as signs instruct.
- Unplug from distractions such as cell phones and unnecessary conversations.
- Turn lights on in work zones and display an orange ribbon to show workers you support their safety.

Submissions will be judged by a panel of roadway industry experts in an age appropriate fashion. Contestants will be judged in two categories: grades K-3 and 4-6. First through third prizes will be awarded in both categories. Matching prizes will be awarded to the schools. State winners will be automatically entered in the national contest.

***State Level: All participants will receive a certificate of appreciation. Winners will be awarded with savings bonds and other prizes valued at over \$1,000.***

***National Level: winners will receive cash prizes of \$300, \$100, and \$50.***

Posters should be created on paper, cardboard, or foam board no larger than 9" x 14".

Each school will choose the top two entries from each category and will submit to IDOT for the state contest.

Each student's name, grade, school, school address/phone number and name of supervising teacher must be firmly affixed to each submission.

A release form signed by a parent or guardian must also be included with each submission.

The Illinois winners will be announced in February 2006.

The national winners will be announced during National Work Zone Awareness Week in April of 2006.



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**Instructions**

1. Send submissions to:  
Office of External Affairs  
Illinois Department of Transportation  
Room 339  
2300 South Dirksen Parkway  
Springfield, IL 62764
2. Deadline: To be eligible for the contest, all submissions must be postmarked no later than December 1, 2005. This deadline has been extended. Originally the deadline was November 15, 2005.
3. Materials: Posters must be no larger than 9” x 14” and should be created on paper, cardboard, or foam board.
4. Use of Artwork: Artwork becomes the property of the American Traffic Safety Services Foundation (ATSSF) and may be used at ATSSF’s discretion for promotional and other purposes.
5. Selection of Winners: Each school is asked to select the top two posters for each category (K-3 and 4-6) and submit them to the Illinois Department of Transportation for judging. A Release Form (copy enclosed) must be completed and signed by a parent or legal guardian for each poster submitted to IDOT.
6. Notification/Awards: Illinois winners will be notified in writing by February 1, 2006. National winners will be notified in writing by April 30, 2006. Prizes will be awarded by May 15, 2006.

7. For more information: Please contact IDOT's Office of External Affairs at (217) 782-6953.